

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Each claim has a status indicator selected from the group of seven (7) permissible status indicators, as indicated:

- Original;
- Currently Amended;
- Canceled (without the text of the canceled claim);
- Withdrawn;
- Previously Presented;
- New; or
- Not entered

The application was filed with original Claims 1-17.

Claims 1-8 are finally rejected by the Office Action of 6 December 2005, while this same Office Action indicated that Claims 9-11, and 14-17 were allowed. Claims 12 and 13 were canceled in an earlier amendment.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 12, and 13, are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as fully anticipated by the Freiburg '294 patent.

Claims 6, and 7, are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the Freiburg '294 patent in view of the Sieling, '568 patent.

Listing of Claims:

1.(currently amended) A folded ridge cover comprising:
an elongate sheet of flexible composition sheet shingle material;
said elongate sheet being transversely back folded on itself at plural centrally disposed spaced apart transverse fold lines intermediate the length of said sheet to define a central transverse thickened portion for said ridge cover, said elongate sheet defining a T-shaped through slit allowing said comparatively thickened portion to also fold double on itself in response to said elongate sheet being folded lengthwise, and said elongate sheet further defining plural spaced apart centrally disposed transverse impressed grooves which do not penetrate through said sheet shingle material so that said sheet shingle material is free of transverse slits, and which impressed grooves also do not remove material from said sheet shingle material so that said sheet shingle material is free of transverse scores, with each transverse impressed groove extending across said elongate sheet from side to side thereof and each for defining respective locations of said plural transverse fold lines.

2. (currently amended) The ridge cover of claim 1 wherein said elongate sheet includes a base web of inorganic fibers impregnated with a modified [asphaltic] asphaltic matrix material, said modified [asphaltic] asphaltic matrix material includes asphalt and a flexibility improving additive.

3. (previously presented) The ridge cover of claim 1 wherein said elongate sheet includes a rectangular end portion joining with a tapering opposite end portion.

4. (previously presented) The ridge cover of claim 1 wherein said plurality of transverse grooves transects said T-shaped slit.

5. (previously presented) The ridge cover of claim 3 wherein said opposite end portion is of trapezoidal shape.

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6. (previously presented) The ridge cover of claim 3 wherein said rectangular end portion is square in shape.

7. (previously presented) The ridge cover of claim 6 wherein said end portion and said opposite end portion cooperatively define a pair of opposite side steps along the length of said elongate work piece, and said pair of side steps are generally disposed along the length of said work piece adjacent to a bottom of said T-shaped slit.

8. (currently amended) A ridge cover work piece, said work piece comprising:
an elongate sheet of composition sheet shingle material;

said elongate sheet defining a T-shaped slit and further defining plural spaced apart centrally disposed transverse grooves each extending across said elongate sheet from side to side thereof each for defining a respective location for one of plural transverse fold lines;

said plural spaced apart centrally disposed transverse grooves being impressed grooves which do not penetrate through said sheet shingle material so that said sheet shingle material is free of transverse slits, and said impressed grooves also not removing material from said sheet shingle material so that said sheet shingle material is also free of transverse scores, with each of said plural transverse impressed groove extending across said elongate sheet from side to side thereof and each serving to define a respective location of a transverse fold line;

said elongate sheet including a rectangular end portion joining with a tapering opposite end portion, and said plurality of transverse grooves transecting said T-shaped slit.

9. (previously presented) As an article of manufacture, a manufacturing intermediate article for making plural centrally-folded and centrally-thickened ridge covers, said manufacturing intermediate article comprising:

an elongate strip of composition shingle roofing material, said elongate strip including plural oppositely disposed ridge cover work pieces integrally joined together to define a longitudinal centrally disposed line of symmetry for said article of manufacture, and each ridge cover work piece including a lower portion having an end edge of certain dimension, and an upper portion having an end edge of lesser dimension, said lower portion end edge and said upper portion end edge being joined by work piece side edges so that each of said plural

oppositely disposed ridge covers work pieces is defined by a respective trapezoidally-shaped sheet disposed transversely to said elongate strip of shingle roofing material, and each ridge cover work piece defining a T-shaped longitudinal slit having a cross bar portion disposed toward said upper end portion of said ridge cover work piece, and each of said plural ridge cover work pieces being free of transverse slits aligned to transect said T-shaped slit.

10. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein said trapezoidally-shaped sheet is also free of score lines aligned to transect said T-shaped slit.

11. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 9 wherein each of said plural work pieces defines plural elongate grooves alternately disposed on a top and on a bottom of said work pieces, and each defining a location for a transverse fold line for the work pieces.

12.(Canceled)

13.(Canceled)

14.(previously presented) A method of providing a centrally-folded and thickened ridge cover of sheet shingle material, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a work piece for said ridge cover, and configuring said work piece to have a lower portion and an upper portion, defining a T-shaped slit in said work piece, and defining plural transverse grooves transecting said T-shaped slit;

bending said work piece at a first of said plural transverse grooves and at a last of said plural transverse grooves so that said work piece has a Z-shape in side elevation view;

applying oppositely directed folding forces to said work piece substantially at the locations of each of said transverse grooves intermediate of said first and last groove so that said work piece takes a zigzag shape along the center bar of said Z-shape; and

applying oppositely directed collapsing forces to the top and bottom bar of said Z-shaped work piece so that the center bar collapsed from said zigzag shape to form plural back folds on itself intermediate of said upper and lower portions;

wherein said step of defining one of said plural transverse grooves in said work piece includes the steps of supporting said work piece on one face with a supporting member, and impressing an impressing member into an opposite face of said work piece in alignment with said supporting member to form said transverse groove;

including the steps of configuring each of said supporting member and said impressing member as a roller or wheel.

15. (previously presented) The method of Claim 14 including the steps of including a radially protruding rib on said impressing member.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15 including configuring said impressing member to have a substantially flat face above which said protruding rib extends radially.

17. (previously presented) The method of Claim 13 including the step of maintaining a separation between said supporting member and said impressing member of about 0.030 inch.